

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SY-05 INRE-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /054 W

----- 121064

O R 231100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7494

INFO DIRECTOR FBI

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4846

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJ: TOTH DEBRIEFING

1. TOTH DEPARTED AS SCHEDULED ON PANAM FLIGHT THIS MORNING.

2. AMBASSADOR AND CONSUL FLEISCHER DEBRIEFED TOTH FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES

AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. MOST INTERESTING INFORMATION CONCERNED INTENSIVE QUESTIONING TO WHICH TOTH WAS SUBJECTED FROM AUGUST 1-6, BEFORE HIS FORMAL ARREST. QUESTIONING TOOK PLACE IN NOVI SAD. ACCORDING TO TOTH, HIS QUESTIONERS ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT HIM TO WORK FOR YUGOSLAV SECURITY IN THE U.S. IT WAS AFTER HE HAD REFUSED THIS OFFER THAT HE WAS ARRESTED. DURING COURSE OF QUESTIONING, HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A CIA AGENT.

3. HE WAS QUESTIONED AT GREAT LENGTH (SOMETIMES FOR AS MUCH AS 16 HOURS STRAIGHT) ABOUT FORMS, PAPER WORK, QUESTIONS INVOLVED WHEN HE IMMIGRATED TO U.S. IN 1967, AND ABOUT SIMILAR PROCEDURES WITH INS AND SELECTIVE SERVICE. TOTH SAID HE HONESTLY ANSWERED THAT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY SPECIFIC DETAILS OF HIS CONTACTS WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

4. HE WAS ALSO QUESTIONED AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE
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BEEN CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY WHEN TOTH APPLIED FOR IV AT EMBASSY

IN 1967. HE SAID THAT VICE CONSUL AT TIME, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS ELDERLY WOMAN, HAD YELLOW CARD WITH NAME LASZLO TOTH AND OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON IT. THE OTHER INFORMATION DID NOT FIT TOTH HOWEVER. TOTH WAS SURPRISED THAT HIS QUESTIONERS SEEMED TO KNOW DETAILS ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION IN EMBASSY AT THAT TIME.

5. TOTH CONFIRMED MOST OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE ABOUT HIS ARREST AND ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH WERE TAKEN IN VRBAS FACTORY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD PERMISSION TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FACTORY MANAGER(DIRECTOR) AND THAT MANAGER HAD SUGGESTED TOTH GIVE HIS CAMERA TO FACTORY PHOTOGRAPHER TO TAKE PHOTOS. TOTH SAID HE HAD PLENTY OF FILM AND HAD ASKED PHOTOGRAPHER TO TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES.

6. TOTH ANSWERED AMBASSADOR LETTER FROM GERMAN MANUFACTURER OF NEW BEET SLICING MACHINERY INDICATING HE COULD GET FROM MANUFACTURER ANY INFORMATION HE WANTED. EQUIPMENT HAD APPARENTLY JUST BEEN INSTALLED AT VRBAS AND WAS AMONG THINGS PHOTOGRAPHED.

7. TOTH TOLD AMBASSADOR HE FELT ALL ALONG THAT UNCLE SAM WAS BEHIND HIM AND THANKED US FOR OUR EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF. HE SAID HE KNEW FROM HIS SISTER ABOUT SOME OF THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS. TOTH INDICATED HE WILLING TO DISCUSS ENTIRE CASE WITH FBI IN U.S.

8. MEMCON FOLLOWS.
SILBERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBRIEFINGS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA04846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0160
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760730/aaaaazpw.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOTH DEBRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, YO, US, (TOTH, LASZLO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006